

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017**  
**6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Joseph Frazier, Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt and Tassie Lewis were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Clerk Lakesha Shannon, City Attorney James Brogdon, Chief Dwayne Tennie and Chief Trey Cooper.

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order and Pastor Denley Caughman gave the opening prayer. Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mr. Terry Brown with the City Shop was named the *November Employee of the Month*. Mayor Brady stated that Mr. Brown does a great job keeping the city equipment up and running.

Mayor Brady explained the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. He stated that City adopts this plan in conjunction with the County and FEMA for disaster preparedness. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mayor Brady explained ***Ordinance 17-07 – An Ordinance to Amend Section 1-5030(4) of the Code of Ordinance*** which will allow city and county businesses a 5%

variance on any bids under \$10,000. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve second reading of Ordinance 17-07 – An Ordinance to Amend Section 1-5030(4) of the Code of Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.***

Mayor Brady stated that Council previously discussed plans to post signage and establish hours of operation at the city parks. He proposed closing the parks from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. to prevent overnight parking. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to approve the recommendation as presented by Mayor Brady to post signage and close the city parks from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for security.*** Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt suggested that the opening time be changed to accommodate athletes who usually begin running at 5:00 a.m. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson amended his motion to approve the signage and the closing of city parks from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and passed unanimously.***

Mayor Brady stated that bids were received for the sale of the police substation on Hwy 76. He stated that three bids were received, ranging from \$1,400 to \$1,875. Mayor Brady recommended that Council approve the high bid. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to approve the high bid of \$1,875 for the sale of the police substation.*** Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if the bid proposal stated that the lot must be cleaned once the building is removed. Mayor Brady confirmed that this request was noted in the proposal and that the City will remove the brick signage from the lot. ***Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.***

Mayor Brady stated that the City received C-Funds to complete improvement projects throughout the city. Bids were advertised on the SC GovDeals website for driveway replacements, and one bid was received from Herrington Construction for \$6.96

per square feet. ***A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to accept the bid of \$6.96 per square ft. from Herrington Construction for driveway replacement.*** Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if the bid price is for the amount of square feet that can be covered with the available funds of \$30,000. Mr. Ammons confirmed that the bid amount would cover up to the \$30,000 available in C-Funds. Mayor Brady asked Council report any driveways they see that need to be replaced. ***Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.***

Mayor Brady explained a request to sell surplus trucks from the public works department and use the funds to purchase a leaf box. Mayor Brady stated that the department has a 2008 F-450 truck, and a 1997 F-800 truck which both have blown engines. The department currently has one leaf truck and a leaf machine. The funds from the sale would be used to purchase a leaf box to place in the back of one of the route trucks. The leaf machine would be connected to the leaf box so that two trucks are available to pick up leaves. Mayor Brady stated that the leaf box could be built with a hook on top so that it can be lifted from the truck with the track hoe after use. ***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier, to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to sell the surplus trucks as recommended and transfer the funds to purchase a leaf box. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Brady stated that the fire department recently received a \$300,000 grant to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus. This equipment should be available by the end of the year or the first of January 2018. He explained a recommendation to sell the old breathing apparatus, and transfer the funds from the sale to help purchase the new fire truck. ***A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to approve the sale of the breathing apparatus as recommended.*** Councilman Ralph Atkinson asked if the City would have

any liability from the old equipment once it's sold. Mr. Ammons commented that the old equipment is still compliant for use. He added that the department is purchasing a newer version of the equipment which has additional features. ***Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.***

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Ammons reported that 16 employees from the police department completed a defensive driving course facilitated by the Municipal Association. He stated that another course will be held in March or April 2018 to include the fire department and public works department.

Mr. Ammons noted that city offices will be closed on December 22 – 26 to observe Christmas. He stated that residential garbage pickup should not be affected by the holiday closings, per AWS; however, commercial dumpster pickup may be delayed by one day. Mr. Ammons stated that some city workers may come in to work on December 26th to pick up cardboard waste.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor Brady stated that Departmental Reports were included in the Council packets.

#### **DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR**

Mayor Brady commented that the Annual Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting Ceremony, and fireworks show were all excellent events that were well attended. He stated that Mr. Cecil Chandler did an amazing job recording the events, and each council member was provided a copy of the DVD. Mayor Brady thanked the Chamber of

Commerce for sponsoring the Tour of Homes and the Bazaar events. Upcoming holiday events include the City Employee Holiday Luncheon on December 13th and The Polar Express on December 21st, both held at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym. The City of Marion celebrated Arbor Day with an event on December 7th in partnership with the Azalea Garden Club. There were three new trees planted on Bobby Gerald Parkway, and a new maple tree planted at the County Square. Mayor Brady thanked the Azalea Garden Club for always doing a great job in helping the City with gardening projects and litter pickup.

Councilman Michael Baker had no update.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented on a discussion from a recent crime watch meeting regarding the street divider on Woodland Drive, and asked if any action was taken on this item. Mr. Ammons stated that signs have been installed on Woodland Drive and the Code Enforcement Officer, Dennis Brown, hand delivered a letter to all residents on the street notifying them of the new signage. Councilman Frazier also commented on a previous discussion about installing GPS trackers in police vehicles to track location and speed. Mr. Ammons stated that the devices have been purchased, but they have not been installed on the vehicles yet.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson thanked all city employees for their work in beautifying the City for the Christmas Holidays. He also requested that a rake be placed in the public works trucks so that the workers can clean up any remaining debris that is not picked up by the backhoe.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no update.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that she and City Clerk Lakesha Shannon will be honored at the upcoming SC Woman to Woman Conference on January 6, 2018 at the A.C. Robinson Resource Center. Councilwoman Lewis stated that she is grateful for the

nomination, and asked that Council support this event. Mayor Brady thanked Councilwoman Lewis and Ms. Shannon for their hard work.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt wished all citizens a Merry Christmas and stated that it has been a pleasure and honor to serve as councilmember this year. He asked that citizens give him a call if his support is needed.

Mayor Brady also thanked the city employees for all the hard work they put into decorating the City for the holidays. He acknowledged their extra effort and long hours, and commented on their excitement as they prepared for the holiday events. He added that the employees take great pride in putting everything together.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters regarding the Fire Department, Police Department and the City Shop. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

Returning from executive session, ***a motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to return to regular session. The motion passed unanimously.***

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, to transfer \$4,000 from Street Department Salaries to General Government Salaries to oversee the City Shop. The motion passed unanimously.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*** The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

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Mayor Ashley Brady

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City Clerk Lakesha Y. Shannon

Taped: December 12, 2017